

Appl. No. 09/656,805
Amdt. Dated March 8, 2006
Reply to Office action of September 13, 2005

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 1-6 with the following paragraph:

Consequently the ~~said~~ method proposes manufacturing at least two of the parts to be assembled at the hearing aid by two-component or multi-component injection molding and to assemble them jointly. Obviously the advantage of cost reduction accompanying such a procedure is highly welcome, however more significantly, the ~~said~~ method of the present invention attains the essential criterion in hearing-aid design, namely increasing the component density per cm^3 of the available space.

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 7-16 with the following paragraph:

When, according to a preferred implementation of the method of the invention, one of the ~~said~~ parts shall be at least a portion of the hearing-aid housing, namely and illustratively one shell of a two-shell housing, then it will be possible to appose directly – by means of two-component or multi-component injection molding – further elements, in particular seals for instance to set up a tight union with the second housing shell and/or impact-damping recesses for delicate hearing-aid elements and/or further active hearing-aid elements such as acoustic conductors. Basically this feature ~~features~~ makes it possible eliminating junction means between said cited parts and elements that are required in conventional designs, or such means may be made precisely as compact as required functionally without the need for junction means such as grooves and tabs.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 3-10 with the following paragraph:

In a further preferred embodiment of the ~~said~~ method, an acoustic conductor is manufactured at the input of the acousto-electric hearing-aid transducer by means of the ~~said~~ injection molding, whether for instance this be jointly with a portion of the hearing aid housing or with a specifically designed elastic assembly part. In further modes implementing the invention, where said modes obviously may be used individually or in combination with

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other preferred embodiments, seats for hearing aid elements are manufactured by said injection molding, whether jointly with housing portions and/or jointly with other elements directly abutting them.

Please delete the paragraph at page 3, lines 15-16.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 1-14 with the following paragraph:

Fig. 4 schematically shows illustratively how, on one hand regarding a hearing aid housing 10, the invention apposes an acoustical conductor 13, for instance at the output of an electromechanical transducer mounting in the hearing aid, or similarly, at the input of an acoustic/electrical transducer (omitted) present at the hearing aid. In addition a resilient bush 15 seating the transducer 12 may be integrated into the housing 10. The housing 10 and the acoustic conductor 13 and/or the housing 10 and the seating bush 15, or all three, namely the housing 10, seating bush 15 and acoustic conductor 13 are manufactured as one part by two- or three-component injection molding. The material of the housing 10 or of its wall is selected in a conventional manner to meet the requirements set on said housing, and as regards the material of the acoustic conductor 13 is selected for instance to be bio-compatible with the behind-the-car hearing aid, and as regards the material for the seating bush 15, it will be one that meets the requirements of impact damping and holding in place the transducer 12 under such conditions. The material of the bush 15 may be readily be selected to be electrically conducting if for instance the transducer 12 should be electrically screened.